

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-52414; File No. SR-Amex-2005-046)

September 13, 2005

Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto to Amend the Exchange's Trade-Through and Locked Markets Rules

On April 28, 2005, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² to implement Amendment No. 15 to the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Option Linkage³ by amending Amex Rules 940 and 943 to add a "trade and ship" exception to the definition of "Trade-Through" and add a "book and ship" exception to the provision relating to locked markets, respectively. On July 6, 2005, the Amex filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.⁴ The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ On July 28, 2000, the Commission approved a national market system plan for the purpose of creating and operating an intermarket option linkage proposed by the Amex, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated, and the International Securities Exchange, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43086 (July 28, 2000), 65 FR 48023 (August 4, 2000) ("Linkage Plan"). Subsequently, upon separate requests by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc., the Pacific Exchange, Inc., and the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc., the Commission issued orders to permit these exchanges to participate in the Linkage Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43573 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70851 (November 28, 2000); 43574 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70850 (November 28, 2000); and 49198 (February 5, 2004), 69 FR 7029 (February 12, 2004).

⁴ In Amendment No. 1, the Amex revised the rule text to use terms consistent with Amex's current rules and made clarifying changes in the purpose, statutory basis, and burdens sections.

comment in the Federal Register on August 5, 2005.⁵ The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change, as amended.

Under the proposed rule change, an Amex member could trade an order at a price that is one minimum quoting increment inferior to the national best bid or offer (“NBBO”) if a Linkage Order⁶ is sent contemporaneously to the market(s) disseminating the NBBO to satisfy all interest at the NBBO price. The proposed rule change also would provide that an Amex member may book an order that would otherwise lock another market if a Linkage Order is sent contemporaneously to such other market to satisfy all interest at the lock price and only the remaining portion of the order is booked. The Amex proposes that, under trade and ship, any execution received from the market disseminating the NBBO must (pursuant to agency obligations) be reassigned to the customer order that is underlying the Linkage Order that was sent to trade with the market disseminating the NBBO.

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6 of the Act⁷ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁸ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ which requires, among other things, that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52172 (July 29, 2005), 70 FR 45449.

⁶ See Amex Rule 940(b)(10).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁸ In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Commission believes that the proposed rule change should help to implement the Linkage Plan by facilitating the ability of Amex's members to execute their customer orders in a timely manner and potentially could decrease the incidence of Trade-Throughs and locked markets.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁰ that the proposed rule change (SR-Amex-2005-046) as amended, is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Jonathan G. Katz
Secretary

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).